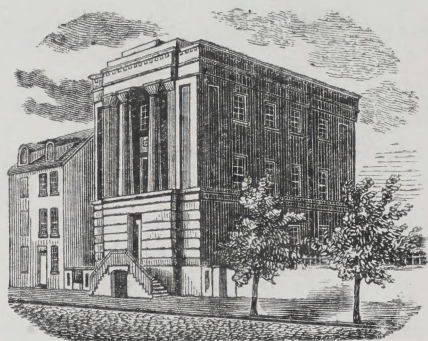


AN ESSAY ON

The Superiority of Homoeopathic Surgery

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

*On the seventeenth day of January, Eighteen Hundred and
Fifty-six.*

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The term Surgeon is derived from two
Greek words "Chir". The hand and organ.
work. The work of the hand and is that
part of the healing art which relates
to external diseases and their treatment
and especially to the manual operations
necessary for their cure or removal.

In early times war made the healing
of wounds of more importance than
the curing of diseases as the simple
manner of living in those days made
diseases less frequent and much more
easily treated than at present.

Honorable mention is made of the Surgeons
who accompanied the Argonautic expedition
also of Surgeons in the Trojan war.
At a later period the Greek and
Arabian physicians cultivated Surgery

and medicine together but in the
time of Hippocrates some operations
were not allowed to be performed by
physicians and among the Arabians
it was considered beneath the dignity
of a physician to operate himself and
among the Romans operations were
generally performed by slaves. In the
middle ages the practice of medicine
was mostly confined to Monks and
Priests but in 1163 the Council of
Tours passed a law prohibiting the
clergy from performing operations
on the ground that the church
detested bloodshed. At this time
Medicine and Surgery were completely
separated and about 1096 Surgery was
taken up by the barbers and for

several centuries the practice of Surgery
remained in their hands. But as
The darkness of the middle ages
disappeared, several works were written
upon this science, and enlightened
by the knowledge of Anatomy it has
continued to rise higher and higher
and in 1731 a surgical academy
was established in France which
soon became celebrated throughout
all Europe. Since that time many
other schools have been established in
Europe and in the United States
and the Chair of Surgery is now
considered one of the most important
and honorable stations in the Faculty
of all Medical schools and instead
of the ignorant slaves who once

attended to surgical operations have
arisen a profession consisting of
men most learned and honorable
and at the present time none save
the best Anatomists and most
skillful operators dare perform operations
in this branch of science. But
up to the advent of Homoeopathy all
surgical cases were treated upon one
general principle namely "Counteraction"
but we are in possession of facts and
data enough to prove the Superiority
of Homoeopathic Surgery over the
mode practised by those who belong to
the Allopathic school. So far as
the manual operations in Surgery are
concerned we do not differ from them
but in the accompanying medical

Treatment we do differ very much.
For instance in Surgical cases which
come under Allopathic treatment after
The wound has been dressed & the fracture
reduced and reaction takes place accompan-
ied by febrile symptoms Bleeding
purging cupping and sucking on the
order of the day and the consequences
are that The already reduced system
is brought still lower and in the majority
of cases never recover their wonted vigor
and health. Now in the same cases
we would dress the wound or reduce
the fracture and then use our infinitesimal
doses of Arnica or Iodine which would
do all the good the Allopath expects.
but in nine cases out of ten fails
to relieve from his Bleedings purgings &c

and is accompanied by none of the evil
effects of such truly Barbarous treatment
but leaves the system unimpaired and
vigorous so that it will be repaired
much sooner than when reduced by
Allopathic treatment. For a long time
after the advent of Homoeopathy Surgery
was left in the dark by Homoeopaths
and abandoned almost entirely to our
Allopathic brethren but as the science
progressed more attention was paid to this
branch of the profession and it was
soon found by experience that in
this branch as well as every other
Homoeopathy excelled. Very many diseases
such as Cancer Erysipelas Hemorrhoids
and various fungous growths in which
the Allopath has no remedy save

his applications and the surgical
way to the infinitesimal doses of the
Homoeopath. The Allopath examines a
case looks wise and bloody and
pronounces an operation necessary
never looking any deeper than the
effluence he sees upon the skin.

He performs his operation. But does
he remove the disease. I answer, No.

He removes the effect of the disease
but leaves the primary cause uninter-
rupted to resume its ravages anew.

Now before prescribing or operating in
such cases the Homoeopath looks deeper
and searches for the cause, destroys
it, and the root of the evil being
eradicated the products must be for-
ward of support and the patient

is left with his constitution unimpaired
from having undergone a tortuous
operation which in some cases out of
ten would result in no permanent
benefit. and at the same time runs
the risk of losing his life. In
confirmation of the statements we have
made we beg leave to compare the
different treatment in some few
cases to illustrate. In Punctate Ophthalmia
Dewees treatment is to wash the eye
frequently with a weak astringent
collyrium and a drop of a solution
of two grains of Nitrate of Silver to an
ounce of distilled water should be put
between the lids with a camels hair
pencil and the lids smeared at night
with citric ointment Bowels kept open

by means of Calomel followed by mercuric
oil or Rhubarb. if there is great
tumefaction a leech applied to the
eye lid and half a grain of calomel be
given every eight hours if the inside
lid become thickened they must be
scraped and touched afterwards
with sulphate of copper and a few
threads of cotton spread with a
blistering plaster may be laid between
the external ear and the head so as
to create a discharge. If the cornea ulcerate
or slough or if the discharge be obstinate
tonics are required and the astringent
collyria should be persevered in he
gives no Prognosis of the disease. but
we should suppose that after having
gone through this course of treatment

and by black gangrene will die in
eight hours. Bleeding of the rectum
is going and vigorous followed by
Bark Local applications of Lushes
Mercurial ointment Blisters and Nitrate
of Silver. and Incisions of from two
to four inches are made when the
swelling is great followed by poultices
and Nitric acid lotion. The principal
Homoeopathic remedies are Arsenic. Puls.
Rox. Erys. Phus. Ery. and Ammonium. Dose
five or six pellets three times per day
In Haemorrhoids if the piles are
inflamed the Allopathic treatment
is leeches to the anus or cupping on
the sacrum a dose of Calomel and
Opium at bed time followed by Castor
Oil in the morning warm fomentations

and fistulas and these are generally
followed by the knife or ligatures
and when thus extirpated in the
great majority of cases the disease
either settles in some other important
organ or returns in an aggravated
form. The principal Homoeopathic
remedies are Carb. Sulphur. Glucon
& Acetate. The reason why we have taken
these diseases to compare the merits
of the two systems of treatment, are.
Because they are common diseases and
met with nearly every day in practice
and therefore they best suitours to
judge by. We will give one or two
more cases and we hope that we
have proved to the unprejudiced mind
that the Homoeopathic treatment of

Surgical cases is not only the easiest
to the patient but the safest quickest
and best mode of treatment. In
cases of Hysterophobia the Allopath
does not pretend to cure but states
that the best that can be done
is to try and relieve the patients
sufferings as much as possible by
Opium and other sedatives. But
thanks to Wahnenan and The Law
Similis Similibus Curantur. we have
no such hopeless prognosis in
Homoeopathic treatment. Bell. Scleria
Hypocistis Stramonium and Conium are
the principal remedies and several
cases are reported cured by them.

Contraction of the Flexor Tendons of
the fingers. This disease is pronounced

incurable by Dr. J. B. Cooper. But
a case in our record as cured by
Dr. Wm. Holcombe. Homoeopathic & the
use of Sulphur and Silicia. Along
with these we have hundreds of other
cases equally successful but we
will conclude by hoping that far
as the science of Homoeopathic
Surgery has advanced that under
the instructions of the competent
Instructors in this branch that it
will advance much farther

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Published monthly of January, Eighth Month and
Eighteen

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